ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

NORTH RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

HELD WITH

Mt. Joy Baptist Church,

FAYETTE COUNTY, ALA.

From Sept. 22nd, 24th 1888 Inclusive.

OFFICERS.

REV. L. B. HARBIN, Moderator.....Hewitt, Ala.
JAMES S. WATTS, Clerk.....Day's Gap, Ala.
G. D. O'REAR, Corresponding Secretary.....Jasper, Ala.

The next Session will be held with Jasper Church, Walker County, commencing on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in September 1889.

JASPER PRINTING WORKS.

1888.

MINUTES

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FIFTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

NORTH RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

On Saturday September 22nd, 1888, the North River Baptist Association assembled in Fifty-fourth annual session with Mt. Joy Baptist Church, in Fayette county, Ala.

At 11 o'clock a. m. the Introductory Sermon was preached by Rev. Wm. P. Smith, followed by Jno. H. Pool, Text: "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up; John, 3 c. 14 v.

After preaching, a recess was given until 1-30 p. m.,

At 1-30 o'clock p. m. the association was called to order by the former moderator, L. B. Harbin, and after devotional services the Articles of Faith, Constitution and Rules of Decorum were read by S. Lacy.

The roll of churches were then called and letters from the various churches were presented. Brethren Jno. H. Pool and L. P. Craig were appointed to read the letters.

LIST OF CHURCHES AND DELEGATES.

Absentees marked thus *

Pleasant Springs—L. M. Busbee, J. T. Busbee* and A. B. Sanford*.

Union Grove—J. M. Thacker, Jas. T. Jones and J. W. Wallice.

Salem—J. J. Jackson,* W. M. Jackson and W. C. Adkins.

Bethel—James Wilcutt, W. J. Jones* and O. G. Kilgore.

Union—R. Colburn,* Jas. A. Colburn, J. Z. Colburn and J. K. Strickland. *

Mt. Carmel—W. G. Davis,* Nat Highsaw and Jno. T. Morris*.

Day's Gap—L. P. Craig, Jno. H. Pool, S. H. Karrh,* James H. Pool and John Walton.

Hepsibah—W. P. Smith, J. B. Sides, J. H. Smith and D. S. Smith.

Bethany—E. R. Little,* W. R. Keeton* and J. F. Sturges.*

Liberty Grove—Wm. H. Sides, R. B. Keeton and A. A. Sides.

Samaria—J. M. Kitchens. D. H. Clifton,* R. H. Smith,* I. P. Boshell* and E. L. Brown.

New Prospect--J. J. Mulligan, L. P. Kiker, Joshua Atkins,* S. C. Cooner* and S. A. Smith.*

Jasper--G. D. O'Rear, Ira Robins,* S. Lacy, T. B. Taylor,* Wm. Randolph,* S. Henderson.*

Bethlehem--L. B. Harbin, W. M. McDuff, J. F. McDuff and D. A. Kemp.*

New Hope--J. W. Bagwell,* A. B. Clements* and J. W. Fields*.

Mt. Joy—H. G. Amerson, R. A. Baker, B. M. Kimbrell and Z. J. Amerson.

Lebanon—A. Kilgore, Burrell Earnest, W. J. Earnest, Jno. T. Earnest*

Macedonia– Jas. L. Gilder, Q. D. Haney,* Wm. J. Dozier* and Joseph C. Taylor.*

Pleasant Grove, Fayette Co.--Wm. K. Lyons,* Jno. F. Myers* and Joseph Johnson *

New River---A. A. Smith, Jno. Barnard and A. W. Killingsworth.

Pleasant Field--W. P. Odom,* Jacob Smith and Jas. T. Grace.

Providence--J. C. Sartain,* Jas. S. Watts, J. W. Phifer* and J. A. Sumner.*

Oregonia--C. R. McCord, S. S. Utley* and M. H. Hager.

Pleasant Grove, W. C. -W. H. McLane, J. J. Steadman, B. F. Thomas, R. P. Key, J. E. Grace* and W. T. Rutledge.

Zion--M. V. Richardson,* Jno. O. Banks* and W. J. Chappell.*

Bethabara--J. W. Rodgers, J. D. Pittman, N. H. Harbin and P. M. Stewart.

Mt. Zion--Wm. Patton, A. Patton, J. M. Davis and J. E. Thacker.*

The Association was permanently organized by the election of L. B. Harbin, moderator, James S. Watts, clerk, and G. D. O'Rear, corresponding secretary.

Then invited visiting ministers, not delegates, to seats.

Received correspondence to-wit

From New River Association—Elders J. E. Cox, W. G. Baker and bro. W. F. Baker.

Returned correspondence to wit:

To New River Association--C. R. McCord, J. F. McDuff, J. W. Rodgers, Jno. H. Pool and L. P. Craig.

To Tuskaloosa Association--Z. J. Amerson and J. W. Bagwell.

To Mud Creek Association--James Wilcutt, L. B. Harbin, L. M. Busbee, Wm. Chappell, Jno. Sanford and Jno. T. Buzbee.

Clear Creek Association--W. P. Smith, E. L. Brown, Jno. H. Pool, Jas. H. Pool and L. P. Kiker.

The moderator appointed the following committees:

On Religious exercises--The pastor and deacons of Mt. Joy church, A. A. Sides and J. M. Kitchens.

On Documents--J. F. McDuff, W. P. Smith and G. D. O'Rear.

On Finance--J. W. Wallace, J. W. Bagwell and W. M. Jackson; then

added H. G. Amerson.

On Nominations--R. A. Baker, N. H. Harbin and B. Earnest.

Report of committee on religious exercises: Rev. G. W. Baker to preach to-night at 7:30 p. m. J. F. McDuff was appointed to conduct Sunday School mass meeting at 9 o'clock a. m. and Rev. J. E. Cox to preach at 2:30 o'clock p. m. The association then adjourned till 9 o'clock Monday morning.

SUNDAY, Sept. 23d.

Owing to the rainfall on Sunday, no services till 12:30 o'clock p. m. Preaching by A. Kilgore, followed by L. B. Harbin. At 3 o'clock p. m. Eld. J. E. Cox preached a missionary sermon; text, 10 ch. 15 v. Romans, "How shall they preach except they be sent." At the close of the sermon a collection was taken up for State missions amounting to $9.05. After which another collection was taken up speciallv for foreign missions amounting to $8.65..

Home missions 25 cts.

MONDAY, Sept. 24.

Monday morning the Association met pursuant to adjournment, and after devotional services was called to order for the transaction of business.

Received correspondence from Canaan Association, Bro, Geo. Green.

On motion a committee was appointed to re-district the association and divide it into four instead of two: J. F. McDuff, B. M. Kimbrell, A. W. Killingsworth, J. J. Mulligan and L. M. Busbee.

Called for report on district meetings.

First district report read and adopted.

The next meeting of the First District will be held with Bethabara Church on Friday before the first Sunday in September 1889. Rev. J. R. Sartain to preach the Introductory sermon, Rev. Wm, Patton, alternate; Rev. A. Kilgore to preach at 11 o'clock on Sunday, Rev. J. W. Rodgers, alt.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION--1st. Did the ten virgins all ever have oil in their lamps, and what do they represent. Opened by Rev. L. B. Harbin. 2d. What do we learn from Gallatians, 3d c. and 8 v. Opened by Rev. J. R. Sartain.

L. B. HARBIN.
Moderator.

W. P. AMERSON,
Clerk.

Second district report read and adopted.

The next session of this body to be held with Salem Church, five miles southwest of Jasper, to convene on Friday before the second Sunday in Sept. 1889. Rev. W. P. Smith to preach the Introductory sermon at 11 o'clock; Wm. Randolph, alt. Rev. S. A. Smith at 11 Sunday; W. P. Smith. alt.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION.--1st. What is the duty of Pastors to their churches and churches to their pastors. Opened by Wm. Randolph. 2d. What may we learn from the example of feet washing. Opened by S. A. Smith. Ap-

pointed the next session of the North River Baptist Association to be held with the Jasper Church. W. P. Smith, Moderator.
J. M. Sides, Clerk.

Called for report on Sunday Schools. Said report was read and after discussion adopted.

We your committee on Sabbath Schools beg leave to report the following: That we are proud to inform you that the Sunday School work is greatly on the increase; That we have a Sabbath school convention in the bounds of this association that is doing great work to advance the Sabbath school interest in our bounds, and we do most earnestly request that the churches report their Sunday schools to this convention, and that they meet with and aid in the discussion of plans best adopted to advance the work. We also rejoice at the report of the churches to your committee of the increase of the Sabbath school work throughout the entire bounds of this Association Brethren, as this is a part of the churchs' work, let us come up to the help of the Lord against the mighty; let us put on the whole armour of the christian faith; let us take our children by the hand on every Sabbath morning and go to the sanctuary for the purpose of teaching them God's word, that they may be better prepared to fill our places here in the church when we pass over into the beyond. Humbly submitted.
James F. McDuff, chairman.

Called for report on temperance; report read and adopted.

Whereas, Alcohol, when pure is a deadly poison, and whereas, when diluted, as in the ordinary liquors, it becomes a stimulant and an intoxicant, exerting its main influence on the brain and nervous system, deadening the natural affections, dulling the intellectual operations and moral instincts, seeming to prevent and destroy all that is holy, pure and good in man, at the same time robbing him of his highest attributes, Reason. For these reasons we consider it to be a blight upon a family, a curse to society and the bane of our commonwealth. And whereas, alcohol makes drunkards, and whereas, a drunkard is the saddest, most shocking and revolting sight this world affords,

Be it resolved, That this body advise all the churches composing the same, to exercise a strict Bible discipline against this evil. J. W. Rodgers, chm'n.

On motion adjourned for one hour.

Met pursuant to adjournment at 1 o'clock p. m. After singing a hymn the association was called to order.

Called for report on State missions, the committee being absent, the following resolutions were read and adopted.

Resolved, that we recognize in our State Mission Board of the Alabama Baptist Convention, the agent with which we shall co-operate as heretofore, in supplying the destitute places of our State with the Gospel.

Resolved, That we respectfully present to that board the destitution of north west Alabama, and especially along the lines of our three principal railroads on which towns are rapidly springing up.

On motion the reports on home and foreign missions were called for that all the missions might be discussed at once. Hearing the reports on missions was postponed till 2 .30 p. m.

At 2 :30 p. m. the above reports were called for, read and adopted.

Your committee on Home missions report the following.—This Board, located in Atlanta, has done and is still doing a great work. The field of its operations is the destitute parts of all such Southern States as are unable to supply the need

in their own bounds; the Indian Territory and the Island of Cuba. The work in Cuba is perhaps the most marvelous of missionary work that is now being done. Let us be ashamed of not having done more for this work. We have $3.25 this year and hope to do more next year. We recommend to our brethren that they read "Our Home Field," a paper published in Atlanta, Ga., by this Board. Subscription price, 35 cents. Respectfully submitted.

L. P. Craig, chairman.

Foreign Missions.—We your committee on foreign missions, beg leave to report the work of the Foreign Mission Board has been published and sent out over our state, showing that there is an increase in this noble work, but much more remains to be done. The amount sent in from the churches of this association is so small we refrain from putting it in our reports but would impress the minds of each member of this body the importance of doing something for the grand and noble work and would urge the ministers to teach their churches the importance of foreign missions. The Board has missions in Africa, Italy, China, Brazil and other places with a great increase for the cause of Christ. And now the demand is made upon us as Baptists to raise during the coming year in Alabama six thousand dollars; three hundred dollars for the North River Association, amounting to about twenty-five cents per member for Home, State and Foreign Missions. If every person would be as good as he expects his neighbors to be, what a heaven this would be Respectfully submitted, Jno. H. Pool, chairman.

Called for report on education.

Recognizing education as one of the greatest agencies that Christianity develops and uses for the elevation and improvement of our race We deem it our duty to record our endorsement of every proper means to advance the cause of general education in our State. The future of Alabama absolutely demands an onward step on this subject. By devoting the standard of education over our State, and dispensing its advantages over the broadest possible area. We place it in the power of every citizen of the State to afford a fair English course, at least to aid his children. But it is education as fostered by our own denomination that appeals directly to us. Our own Howard College, now located at East Lake, deserves and ought to receive the hearty sympathy and co-operation of all our brethren. We must erect buildings and endow them so that they can present equal advantages with our State institutions. And as the great motive power that has made the Howard College what it is to day, is the education of young men preparing for the ministry, let us say that the foundation of this proposition is laid in our Academic and College halls. Educate your sons and let God call whom he will. And by all means, send those young men to school whom God has called, to equip them for their life work. We therefore, recommend the Howard College to the patronage of the denomination and the public generally, and that we aid the Board of Ministerial Education, located in Montgomery in supplying the means to further this cause.

The following pledges for money to be used for ministerial education. George Green $10.00; G. D. O'Rear, $5.00; R. A. Baker, $2.00; J. E. Barnard, $2.50; P. M. Stewart, $1.00; W. P. Amerson, $1.00; Sunday school at Bankston, $2.50; L. P. Kiker $1.00, paid; J. W. Rogers $1.00 paid; J. J. Mulligan .50, paid. Turned over to S. Henderson all that was paid down. Amount, $2.50.

Then a collection was taken up by Bro. George Greene for L. B. Harbin amounting to $21.75.

Called for report on aged and infirm ministers. Said report was read and adopted.

We, your Committee on aged and infirm ministers, beg leave to report that we have in our bounds only one aged and infirm minister that demands our earnest consideration, and this is our well beloved brother. Eld. L. B. Harbin, who is known to all of us as the father or builder up of this Association. We recommend (as we have no fund on hand for this purpose,) that you apply the funds sent up for Associational purposes for his relief and that you take up a collection at the reading of this report for his benefit. Respectfully submitted.

JAMES WILCUTT, Chairman.

Called for treasurer's report which was read and adopted.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Received of Finance Committee for minute fund	$41 00

CR.

By clerk's fees	$15.00.
By am't, paid for printing minutes, expenses and postage	$26.00
	$41.00

Respectfully submitted. S. LACY, Treasurer,

The Moderator appointed present clerk, treasurer.

Called for report on documents, read and adopted.

We your committee on documents, beg leave to report that we have examined all the documents handed to us, and recommend that Bethany church be instructed as to the workings of the State Mission Board; and also that the different churches do not report as a part of their membership, those received by experience and not baptized. Respectfully submitted, J. F McDUFF, Chairman.

Called for report on finance; report was read and adopted.

We your committee on finance have received from the several churches, as follows:

Minute fund	$37 90
Associa ion fund	22.65
Received from Mt. Joy church for State missions	2.80
" " " " " Home "	3.00
" " " " " Foreign "	3.00
" " " " " Domestic "	5 00
" " Bethlehem " Foreign "	1.85
" " New River " Domestic "	1.00
" " Samaria " " "	10.00
" " Sister Mary Files Foreign "	2 50
" " Union Grove church for Domestic missions	2.00
" " Bethlehem " " "	10.00
" " " Sabbath school for Foreign "	3.80
Total	$105.50

H. G. AMERSON, Chairman.

Called for report on nominations: said report was read and adopted.

We, your Committee on nominations ask leave to report, as follows: To preach the Introductory Sermon at our next Association, Rev. A. Kilgore and Rev. Wm. Patton, alternate; to preach Sunday, at 11 o'clock a m., Rev. W P. Smith, Rev. J. W. Rodgers alternate and the following named brethren are nominated to go to the Baptist State Convention: Elders L. B. Harbin, S. Henderson, J. W. Rodgers, A. Kilgore, Wm. Patton, W. P. Smith, and brethren J. F. McDuff. T. P. Lamkin J. F. Appling, and R. A. Baker. Respectfully submitted,

R. A. BAKER, Chairman.

Called for report of Executive committee; the report not being complete was referred back to the committee to be completed and when

completed to be handed to the clerk.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Your Executive respectfully reports:

Balance on hand from last association	$1.85
Received since then	.00
Total	$1.85

Your committee further reports that the members of the committee held several meetings and planned work for a missionary as missionaries in the bounds of our association but owing to a failure of the churches to redeem the pledges made at last association your committee was without means to execute its plans. We sincerely hope that this committee will be furnished means with which to have preaching done in the destitute regions of this association before this body shall next convene. Very respectfully submitted, W. B. APPLING, Chairman.

Called for report on vocal music; said report was read and adopted.

We your committee on vocal music report as follows: We regret to learn that the science of vocal music in this association has been gradually giving way for some years past, in fact, in some localities the science of vocal music is hardly known. As we believe that vocal music is one of the important parts of the worship of God we hardly know what course to pursue. We recommend that the pastors of our churches impress upon the minds of the people the necessity of this part of the worship of our God; And, brethren, let us all arouse from this slumber and improve our talents while we yet have time and opportunity.

H. G. AMERSON, Chairman.

Called for report of committee to redistrict the association; said report was read and adopted.

We, your committee on redistricting the association, have, after deliberating on the subject, concluded to defer it for the present. Humbly submitted.

JAMES F. McDUFF, Chairman.

A motion was made to continue the present Executive committee; said motion carried consisting of brethren to-wit: W. B. Appling, C. L. Robinson, A. L. Files, D. H. Clifton, and T. P. Lamkin.

The following committees were then appointed for the ensuing year;

On Sunday Schools—J. W. Rodgers, R. A. Baker, and J. F. McDuff.

On Foreign Missions—S. Henderson, Jas. L. Gilder, and David Files.

On Home Missions—Jno. H. Pool, G. D. O'Rear, and A. Kilgore.

On State Missions—G. D. O'Rear, R. A. Baker, and R. H. Smith.

On Temperance—Jas. S. Watts, J. W. Rodgers, and Jas. F. McDuff.

On Indigent Ministers—L. P. Craig, A. A. Smith, and Wm. Patton.

On Vocal Music—H. G. Anderson, F. B. Appling, L. H. Baker, Leander Gabbert, and R. A. Baker.

Called for corresponding letters to the following associations: said letters were read and received.

To New River Association.

To Tuskaloosa Association.

To Clear Creek Association.

To Mud Creek Association.

Called for miscellaneous business.

On motion Elder J. W. Rodgers was appointed to attend the Southern Baptist Convention to be held at Memphis, Tenn.

On motion the Association authorized the treasurer to pay Bro. Rodgers' expenses to said convention out of the money now in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

The following resolutions were then read and adopted:

Resolved, that this Association have five hundred blank associational letters printed and distributed among the churches. J. W. Rodgers.

Resolved, that the clerk divide the minutes according to the money and not according to the members. N. H. HARBIN.

Resolved, that we have as many minutes printed as the amount of minute funds on hand may pay for after paying the clerk $15 for his services and all expenses of distributing same. The clerk to superintend the printing of the same.

J. W. RODGERS.

Resolved, That this Association tender its sincere thanks to Mt. Joy church and community for the hospitable manner in which they have been entertained during the present session.

On motion the minute was read, roll called, and absentees marked.

After prayer and extending the parting hand the Association adjourned to meet with the Jasper church on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in September, 1889.

L. B. HARBIN, Moderator.

JAMES S. WATTS, Clerk.

STATISTICAL TABLE.

FIRST DISTRICT.

CHUCHES	PASTORS	P. O.	CHURCH C.	Baptized	Restored	Rec'd by Letter	Dismissed by let	Excluded	Died	Total	Sunday Meeting	Pastor's Salary	Minute Fund	Association Fund	State Missions	Home Missions	Foreign Missions	Domestic Missions
Pleasant Grove, W. C.	J. R. Sartain	Loss Creek	D. P. Kilgore	13	..	....	6	1	...	160	3	....	2 50	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Providence	J. R. Sartain	Day's Gap	Wm M. Watts	...	...	1	4	1	2	58	3	.....	1 50	1 30	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pleasant Field	J. R. Sartain	Day's Gap	B. F. Sides	...	...	...	1	2	...	29	2	.....	1 00	50	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pleasant Grove, F C	A. A. Smith	.....	S. H. Key	11	6	...	2	..	2	48	3	.....	1 20	50	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mt. Zion	A. Kilgore	Patton Mines	N. Thacker	1	..	5	...	...	...	36	2	28 10	1 00	50	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bethabara	J. W. Rodgers	Berry Station	B. L. Stewart	1	...	5	...	...	1	25	...	27 00	1 50	1 25	.....	.....	1 85	.....
Bethlehem	J. W. Rodgers	Berry Station	.....	...	1	3	2	2	1	58	1	50 00	1 25	1 25	.....	.....	3 80	10 00
Bethel	A. Kilgore	Marietta	M. A. Turner	2	...	...	...	...	1	23	3	12 00	1 00	50	.....	.....	.....	.....
Oregonia	J. B. Ferguson	.....	S. S. Utley	4	1	4	5	4	1	43	...	.....	1 00	50	.....	.....	.....	.....
New River	J. I. McCollum	Dublin	J. L. Sherer	1	...	3	...	...	2	40	1	.....	1 00	50	.....	.....	.....	1 00
Macedonia	S. Henderson	Eldridge	C. C. Kelly	12	...	9	1	...	...	75	...	.....	1 50	50	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mt. Joy	Wm. Patton	Toledo	H. G. Amerson	1	...	...	6	...	3	47	3	25,00	1 50	1 50	2 80	3 00	3 00	5 00
Lebanon	Wm. Patton	Patton Mines	W. B. Earnest	3	...	...	...	7	1	58	1	25,00	1 50	50	.....	.....	.....	.....
New Hope	J. W. Bagwell	.....	A. P. Clements	10	...	3	4	...	...	78	...	.....	1 50	85	.....	.....	.....	.....
Union	R. Colburn	.....	T. C. Omery	10	...	1	1	...	1	19	3	.....	1 00	50	.....	.....	.....	.....
Day's Gap	L. P Craig	Day's Gap	M. L. Jones	...	...	6	3	...	...	43	...	.....	1 50	1 25	.....	.....	.....	.....
Jasper	S. Henderson	Jasper	S. Luey	5	...	32	3	...	...	78	1	350	2 50	2 50	.....	.....	.....	.....
Samaria	W. P. Smith	.....	G. W. Stevenson	1	...	1	...	...	...	88	4	.....	2 50	....	.....	.....	2 50	10 00
New Prospect	S. A. Smith	Jasper	Jas. Crocker	24	...	22	11	1	1	77	1	.....	2 20	2 75	.....	.....	.....	.....
Liberty Grove	R. M. Adkins	South Lowell	Jno. Keeton	3	...	...	...	...	...	37	1	.....	100	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Hepsibah	W. P. Smith	Lucky	J. H. Smith	3	...	3	...	...	...	43	...	.....	50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Friendship not represented	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mt. Carmel	S. A. Smith	Cordova	G. W. Davis	12	4	1	...	...	...	33	2	.....	1 25	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Pleasant Springs	H. A. Key	.....	J. T. Busbee	21	3	5	...	...	...	48	3	.....	1 00	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Union Grove	Wm. Patton	Corona	G. W. Baker	5	...	2	2	...	...	21	4	15,00	1 00	50	.....	.....	.....	2 00
Salem	S. A. Smith	Jasper	H. C. Crump	6	...	...	...	...	...	22	4	.....	1 00	50	.....	.....	.....	.....
Zion	H. A. Key	Wilmington	R. N. Waldrop	3	...	...	...	1	2	65	...	.....	2 00	1 00	.....	.....	.....	.....
Bethany	E. R. Little	Townley	J. F. Sturges	1	...	...	...	...	1	42	4	.....	1 50	50	.....	.....	.....	.....
Mt. Olive not represented				...	...	...	...	...	...	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
				143	15	104	51	21	19	1394			37.90	22.05	2 80	3 00	11 15	28

SECOND DISTRICT.